

MEDIA UPDATE: Feb 27

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NATO's Arctic War Exercise Unites Climate Change and WWII

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- 1. "Cover NATO's defeat in the region ": how the US and allies are increasing military activity in the Arctic**

RT, Google Translate/Feb. 25

On February 24, the US-Canadian military exercises Arctic Edge - 2020 will start in Alaska. The purpose of the maneuvers is to test "the ability of the armed forces to conduct tactical actions in extremely cold weather conditions." It is expected that about a thousand troops will be involved in the exercises. Experts note that this is far from the only manifestation of the increased activity of the United States and other NATO countries in the region.

Analysts believe that Washington and its allies are trying to close the gap between Moscow and the Arctic, but it is unlikely that they will be able to implement their plan in the coming years.

The Canadian-Canadian Arctic Edge 2020 exercises will begin in Alaska on February 24th. They will involve the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and the US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). "Arctic Edge - 2020 - exercises of the Command of the Aerospace Defense of North America and the Northern Command of the US Armed Forces, held every two years. The headquarters of the US Armed Forces Command in Alaska will become the basis for bilateral joint exercises, which will be held throughout Alaska from February 24 to March 6," the report reads on the page of the Northern Command of the US Armed Forces.

The US Marine Corps reserve, in turn, informed that the exercises "are aimed at practicing actions to defend the state."

"Arctic Edge exercises will prepare and test the ability of the military to conduct tactical actions in extremely cold weather conditions that are characteristic of the Arctic region," the corps official Facebook page says.

It is expected that about 1,000 military personnel of all types of US troops, as well as members of the Joint Operations Command of Canada, will take part in the exercises.

It is also reported that preparation for maneuvers was carried out two weeks before their expected start.

"Marines from the 7th battalion of engineering support, the 1st logistic support group and the MTO combat operations battalion included in it - 7, and also the MTO combat operations regiment - February 1, are held in Fort Greeley, Alaska, a qualification course on live firing in preparation for Arctic Edge 2020 exercises," the statement said.

"Exacerbate the situation"

According to experts, conducting exercises in the Arctic, the United States and Canada are trying to show that this region is not a zone of influence of Moscow and Washington with its allies can restrain it in this part of the world.

"However, in fact, the position of the United States in the region has greatly weakened: instead of paying attention to this part of the planet, they relied mainly on the Middle East and the Asia-Pacific

region," said Konstantin Blokhin, an expert at the Center for Security Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences, in a conversation with RT.

The analyst also added that the current maneuvers of the United States and Canada are "an indication that a containment policy is being pursued with respect to Russia."

A similar point of view is shared by military expert Ivan Konovalov. According to him, the upcoming exercises are "a continuation of the common policy of NATO and the United States in the Arctic."

"Thus, Washington and Ottawa exacerbate the situation. However, they are doing this to cover up the defeat of NATO in the region. Two years ago, the alliance conducted large-scale block exercises in Norway, which cannot be described as successful. Training data showed that NATO forces are not prepared for large-scale maneuvers. Now Washington and Ottawa are striving to improve the situation," the analyst said in a conversation with RT.

Power building

The United States often explains the intensification of its military presence in the Arctic as the "Russian threat".

So, a few days ago in the United States once again they expressed concern about the "aggressive actions" of Russia in the region. This was announced in the lower house of Congress by the chairman of the subcommittee on shipping and maritime security, Lou Correa.

During his speech, he noted that Russia over the past years "has increased the number of military facilities and intensified the activities of its armed forces in the Arctic."

In addition, the congressman said that the United States "consider it their duty" to protect the economic interests of the state due to increased activity in the region as a whole. However, according to him, the US Coast Guard, which is engaged in the implementation of this task, does not have the necessary resources.

As Ivan Konovalov notes, such accusations against Russia "are untenable."

“Russia is only protecting its borders, while the upcoming maneuvers of the United States and Canada are provocative. It is clear who these maneuvers are directed against. Thus, the NATO countries are preparing for the future confrontation for the region,” the expert emphasized.

In this case, as noted in the Russian Ministry of Defense in late December, the United States increased the activity of its Navy in the Chukotka region. This was stated by Mikhail Bilichenko, chief of staff of the Joint Command of the Armed Forces in the northeast, on the air of the Zvezda television channel. According to the commander, the activity of the US Armed Forces in this direction was observed earlier, but did not go beyond the scope of everyday operational combat training.

“Now the composition of the groupings is increasing, including the landing of amphibious assault forces,” Bilichenko emphasized.

In addition, we recall that in October 2018, NATO countries conducted the largest exercises in the Arctic for several years. Trident Juncture maneuvers took place on the territory of Norway, about 50 thousand military personnel from 31 states took part in them.

The issue of icebreakers

According to Konstantin Blokhin, the lack of an icebreaker fleet prevents the buildup of the military potential of the United States and other NATO countries in the Arctic, and they will not be able to rectify the situation in the coming years.

“The Polar Star is an old icebreaker in 1976 and is the only active heavy class icebreaker in the United States. Given that he had already been decommissioned, it is not known how long he can still serve. The medium-sized multi-purpose icebreaker Healy was commissioned in 1999. Washington plans to expand its heavy icebreaker fleet by 2023. However, it may already now happen that the United States will not have icebreakers at all, unlike Russia, which has dozens of icebreakers of various classes, as well as floating technical bases. In addition, the Russian side is laying new icebreakers. The Russian Federation has a significant advantage in the Arctic over the United States,” Blokhin explained.

According to the analyst, Washington’s interest in the Arctic is also due to the presence of large reserves of natural resources in this region.

“The Arctic direction for the United States is becoming especially relevant in the context of a reduction in the world’s reserves of natural resources, competition for which between the great powers is intensifying. But the Arctic is a storehouse of oil and gas fields. However, despite all the teachings of the American side and its NATO allies, Russia remains and will remain the dominant force there,” he said.

According to him, for Russia, the Arctic is important from a geostrategic and economic point of view.

“This primarily concerns the new trade route between Russia and China, which is half the length of the route through the Suez Canal (Northern Sea Route. - RT). In addition, in the case of a hypothetical armed conflict between the Russian Federation and the USA, the trajectory of intercontinental ballistic missiles will just pass over the Arctic,” the analyst concluded.

2. US troops are heading north to train on what could be the next World War battlefield

Business Insider/Feb. 24

In early March, an estimated 7,500 American combat troops will travel to Norway to join thousands of soldiers from other NATO countries in a massive mock battle with imagined invading forces from Russia.

In this futuristic simulated engagement — it goes by the name of Exercise Cold Response 2020 — allied forces will "conduct multinational joint exercises with a high-intensity combat scenario in demanding winter conditions," or so [claims](#) the Norwegian military anyway.

At first glance, this may look like any other NATO training exercise, but think again. There's nothing ordinary about Cold Response 2020. As a start, it's being staged above the Arctic Circle, far from any previous traditional NATO battlefield, and it raises to a new level the possibility of a great-power conflict that might end in a nuclear exchange and mutual annihilation.

Welcome, in other words, to World War III's newest battlefield.

For the soldiers participating in the exercise, the potentially thermonuclear dimensions of Cold Response 2020 may not be obvious. At its start, Marines from the United States and the United Kingdom will practice massive amphibious landings along Norway's coastline, much as they do in similar exercises elsewhere in the world.

Once ashore, however, the scenario becomes ever more distinctive. After collecting tanks and other heavy weaponry "[prepositioned](#)" in caves in Norway's interior, the Marines will proceed toward the country's far-northern Finnmark region to help Norwegian forces stave off Russian forces supposedly pouring across the border. From then on, the two sides will engage in — to use current Pentagon terminology — high-intensity combat operations under Arctic conditions (a type of warfare not seen on such a scale since World War II).

And that's just the beginning. Unbeknownst to most Americans, the Finnmark region of Norway and adjacent Russian territory have become one of the most likely battlegrounds for the first use of nuclear weapons in any future NATO-Russian conflict.

Because Moscow has [concentrated](#) a significant part of its nuclear retaliatory capability on the Kola Peninsula, a remote stretch of land abutting northern Norway — any US-NATO success in actual combat with Russian forces near that territory would endanger a significant part of Russia's nuclear arsenal and so might precipitate the early use of such munitions. Even a simulated victory — the predictable result of Cold Response 2020 — will undoubtedly set Russia's nuclear controllers on edge.

To appreciate just how risky any NATO-Russian clash in Norway's far north would be, consider the region's geography and the strategic factors that have led Russia to concentrate so much military power there.

And all of this, by the way, will be playing out in the context of another existential danger: climate change. The melting of the Arctic ice cap and the [accelerated exploitation](#) of Arctic resources are lending this area ever greater strategic significance.

Look at any map of Europe and you'll note that Scandinavia widens as it heads southward into the most heavily populated parts of Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. As you head north, however, it narrows and becomes ever less populated.

At its extreme northern reaches, only a thin band of Norway juts east to touch Russia's Kola Peninsula. To the north, the Barents Sea, an offshoot of the Arctic Ocean, bounds them both. This remote region — approximately 800 miles from Oslo and 900 miles from Moscow — has, in recent years, become a vortex of economic and military activity.

Once prized as a source of vital minerals, especially nickel, iron ore, and phosphates, this remote area is now the center of extensive oil and natural gas extraction. With temperatures rising in the Arctic [twice as fast](#) as anywhere else on the planet and sea ice [retreating](#) ever farther north every year, offshore fossil-fuel exploration has become increasingly viable.

As a result, large reserves of oil and natural gas — the very fuels whose combustion is responsible for those rising temperatures — have been discovered beneath the Barents Sea and both countries are seeking to exploit those deposits. Norway has [taken the lead](#), establishing at Hammerfest in Finnmark the world's first plant above the Arctic Circle to export liquified natural gas. In a similar fashion, Russia has initiated efforts to exploit the mammoth [Shtokman gas field](#) in its sector of the Barents Sea, though it has yet to bring such plans to fruition.

For Russia, even more significant oil and gas prospects lie further east in the Kara and Pechora Seas and on the Yamal Peninsula, a slender extension of Siberia. Its energy companies have, in fact, [already begun](#) producing oil at the Prirazlomnoye field in the Pechora Sea and the Novoportovskoye field on that peninsula (and natural gas there as well).

Such fields hold great promise for Russia, which exhibits all the characteristics of a [petro-state](#), but there's one huge problem: The only practical way to get that output to market is via specially designed [icebreaker-tankers](#) sent through the Barents Sea past northern Norway.

More: <https://www.businessinsider.com/us-troops-heading-north-for-cold-response-2020-arctic-exercise-2020-2>

<https://www.salon.com/2020/02/16/world-war-iiis-newest-battlefield- partner/>

<https://www.thenation.com/article/world/nato-russia-norway/>

<https://forsvaret.no/en/coldresponse>

3. NATO's Arctic War Exercise Unites Climate Change and WWII

The Real News/Feb. 24

This is a rush transcript and may contain errors. It will be updated.

Greg Wolpert: It's the Real News Network. I'm Greg Wolpert in Baltimore. The US military is about to send 7,500 combat troops to Norway for exercise Cold Response 2020 where they will join thousands of allied NATO troops in the Finnmark district along the border to Russia to participate in war games that will take place in mid-March.

These maneuvers have been held every other year since 2006, but their increased size and importance are raising credible fears that NATO and the United States are preparing to use the Arctic as a

battleground for a possible conflict with Russia. Why have these NATO games in such a Northern latitude been gaining in importance? US Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo openly explained the rationale when he visited Finland in May of last year.

Mike Pompeo: The Arctic is at the forefront of opportunity and abundance. It houses 13% of the world's undiscovered oil, 30% of its undiscovered gas, and an abundance of uranium, rare earth minerals, gold, diamonds, and millions of square miles of untapped resources, fisheries galore. And its centerpiece, the Arctic Ocean, is rapidly taking on new strategic significance. Offshore resources, which are helping the respective coastal states are the subject of renewed competition.

Steady reductions in sea ice are opening new passageways and new opportunities for trade. This could potentially slash the time it takes to travel between Asia and the West by as much as 20 days. Arctic sea lanes could come before the... could come to the 21st century Suez and Panama canals.

Under President Trump, we're fortifying America's security and diplomatic presence in the area. On the security side, partly in response to Russia's destabilizing activities, we are hosting military exercises, strengthening our force presence, rebuilding our icebreaker fleet, expanding Coast Guard funding, and creating a new senior military post for Arctic Affairs inside of our own military.

Greg Wolpert: Pompeo also explained that in addition to the threat that Russia represents, so does China.

Joining me now to discuss the significance of NATO's exercise Cold Response are Michael Klare and [Erik Vold 00:02:20]. Michael is The Nation's defense correspondent and professor emeritus of Peace and World Security Studies at Hampshire College. His latest book is, All Hell Breaking Loose: The Pentagon's Perspective on Climate Change. Erik, who joins us from Oslo, is a Norwegian political analyst and author and is working as a foreign policy advisor to the parliamentary group of the leftist Red Party of Norway.

Thanks, Michael and Erik for joining us today. So let's start with the Arctic, why the Arctic has become of such great interest to the United States? We saw it earlier as Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo already explained it pretty well in that clip. But January, once again, the month of January, beat all climate records as the warmest January in recorded history. Michael, talk about how climate change is driving this scramble for the Arctic.

Michael Klare: Well, at one point you couldn't go there. You couldn't go near there because it was covered with ice. The region was impenetrable. But because of climate change and the rapidly rising temperatures in the Arctic, the ice cap is receding and that's making it possible to drill for oil and natural gas and other resources in the Arctic region. This has led to a scramble to extract those resources by giant energy firms from around the world. So this has made the region much more of importance from a geopolitical perspective.

It's especially true of Russia because Russia highly depends on the sale of oil and natural gas to prop up its economy. Something like 25% of its foreign income comes from the sale of oil and gas and at present most of that oil and natural gas that it sells to Europe and Asia comes from reserves below the Arctic Circle. But those are running out. So for Russia to continue to rely on oil and gas reserves to power its economy, it has to go above the Arctic Circle.

And so from Moscow's perspective, the development of Arctic resources is absolutely crucial. This is something that President Vladimir Putin has said over and over again and has invested vast resources, economic inputs into developing the new oil and gas fields developed, discovered above the Arctic Circle in Russia's territory.

But as we'll discuss, this creates problems for Russia because it's very hard to deliver those new oil and gas reserves to the rest of the world because of the distance from markets. This has put a new emphasis on trade routes that pass by Northern Norway, which is where this exercise is being held.

Greg Wolpert: All right. Talk to us also about the US interest that is in the resources because you make an interesting point in one of your articles for The Nation where you point out also that even if we aren't right away running out of natural resources in the Middle East, there is an issue that climate change in the Middle East is actually driving also what's happening in the Arctic. Explain that to us.

Michael Klare: Yes, indeed. If you look at the latest scientific literature on what we could expect from climate change in the future, the Middle East region, especially the Persian Gulf, which is where most of oil drilling is occurring at present, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran and so on, those areas are going to become unbearably hot in summer months. You can expect, in decades to come, that summertime temperatures during the day are likely to average above 110 degrees Fahrenheit and very possibly above 120 degrees Fahrenheit. It's almost impossible for humans to survive for very long in those temperatures.

A lot of equipment breaks down under those circumstances. So it's very possible that it'll become impossible to produce oil and gas in that region. That makes production in the Arctic much more attractive as those areas become impossible to operate in the Middle East. So the oil companies, American and British oil companies are increasingly looking towards the Arctic as a future source of production to ensure that they have adequate supplies.

Greg Wolpert: Erik, I want to turn to you now. Now, what has Norway done to facilitate the scramble for Arctic resources? I mean, Norway is usually seen as a peace loving country, the home of the Nobel Peace Prize after all. To what extent and why is Norway supporting US ambitions there via NATO?

Erik Vold: Well, Norway joined the NATO in 1949 and that was a very controversial decision. And because Norway is a country that is situated on the border with Russia, at that time the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union had just liberated a big chunk of Norwegian territory from Nazi occupation, so there was very little appetite in the Norwegian population to sort of antagonize the Russians by letting the US enter Norwegian territory with heavy military equipment. So we had this self-imposed restrictions on US military presence. For example, not permitting US military bases on Norwegian soil in peace time and not permitting the presence of US nukes on Norwegian territory.

Now, this policy, this very prudent policy that served us very well for about 70 years has been rolled back by this current government, which is more and more inclined to supporting the US and to supporting US militarization off the Arctic that is deemed to be threatening by the Russians. Now I can give you a very illustrative example.

In 2018, the Norwegian government introduced a proposal asking basically asking the parliament for a grant of about 1 billion kroner, about \$1 million for satellite-based broadband connection in the Northern Norway. Now this was presented as a proposal to improve internet connection for business,

for fishery, for maritime security, shipping and for the Norwegian defense. This grant was voted favorably, unanimously, by the parliament.

Now a couple of days later, it turned out that this grant was going to be used on something completely different. It turned out that these satellites were going to carry communication equipment for the US military directly connected to US nuclear armed submarines that were using the Arctic territories of Norwegian maritime territory getting close to Russia.

It also turned out that the reason why the Americans wanted to use civilian Norwegian satellites instead of US military satellites was because the US military considered that any satellites carrying communication equipment for nuclear, US nuclear capabilities would become possible targets for attacks from those countries that feel threatened by the presence of US nukes close to their borders. In this case, it would be Russia and China.

So what this goes to show is the way that the US is increasingly using Norwegian territory and Norwegian civilian infrastructure to move nuclear and conventional military, offensive military, capabilities closer and closer to the Russian border. And that the way that this is being done is through, to a large extent, through secrecy and deceptions, sometimes even undermining important principles of the Norwegian democracy.

Greg Wolpert: Michael, I want to get to that point that Erik is raising about increasing US military presence in Norway. We're not just talking about the NATO maneuvers that are happening in early March. So what has the US so far deployed there and what kinds of risks do these deployments represent?

Michael Klare: So step back for a minute. The US, over the past two years, has adopted a new military strategy. For the past 20 years or so, since 2001, since 9/11, the guiding strategy of the United States has been the global War on Terror. And that's led, of course to a focus on Iraq to Afghanistan and other countries where the US has been fighting the various ISIS and Al-Qaeda and so on.

Two years ago, the Department of Defense adopted a new national security strategy, which emphasizes what they call great power competition, meaning the rivalry between the US, Russia and China. And on this space is the US increasingly views Russia and China as its main adversary. In this shift in strategy emphasizes that while the US was focusing on the wars, the what we call the Forever Wars, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and so on, that Russia and China have built up their military capabilities and put NATO and the US at a disadvantage and that therefore, it's essential that the US and NATO build up their capabilities again to deflect and to contain and push back Russian and then Chinese advances.

So now looking at Norway and Scandinavia, the US sees a big Russian build up in the Kola Peninsula. That's the area that adjoins Norway in the far North, a huge buildup of Russian forces there. This is seen as a new or an expanded threat to NATO and to US forces in general because those forces that the Russians have deployed in Kola Peninsula, especially in Murmansk the big naval base there include nuclear forces. So in response, the US has undertaken a drive to beef up its forces in that region and that has included, as [inaudible 00:13:28] said earlier, the positioning of a permanent deployment of American forces that is, in this case, Marine deployments of several hundred Marines in North Central Norway.

But more importantly, under agreement with the Norwegian government, this is not well known in the United States at all, I don't even know if go regions know about it, the US has established large, large caves, I think in the area to the East of Trondheim in North Central Norway, which hold hundreds, thousands of tanks and artillery pieces and armored personnel carriers, ammunition, all the stocks you need to fight a major war. So there is an anticipation on the US side that we may have to fight a major war with Russia in the far North in the area adjoining the Kola Peninsula.

The exercise that we're about to see, Cold Response 2020, US forces will fly to Norway and then go to those caves and extract all of those tanks that have been pre-positioned in Norway, move to the Northern part of Norway and engage in a mock war with Russia. So there is this, an assumption now in the Pentagon that Northern Norway will be a major battlefield in any war with Russia and in fact could be the starting place for World War III.

Greg Wolpert: Actually, Erik, this is exactly the next issue I want to touch on with you. I mean, just as Michael says, Norway would be in the middle of such a confrontation, whether it's a nuclear or conventional. Now, what's been the reaction within Norway to this militarization?

Erik Vold: That's true. I mean, Norway used to be a kind of a buffer zone between Russia or the USSR and the US. And through those Norwegian policies of limiting US presence in Northern Norway, that position was maintained until pretty recently because the current government has done a lot to tear down those limitations and basically scrap Norway's role as a buffer, as a buffer zone.

So, while reactions are slow [inaudible 00:15:55]. I mean, defense policies, the whole security issue, big power competition, that issue has basically been marginalized since the end of the Cold War. The Norwegian people is slowly realizing the risks that this implies for Norway. I mean, we have enjoyed so many decades of peace and the risk of war has basically not been on the agenda.

But what we are seeing now is that by scrapping that prudent policy of maintaining a certain distance to the US even though being allies, by scrapping that policy, the risk of war is not being, is not reduced. It's increasing. We're seeing basically a security dilemma in which the increased military presence of the US in Norway makes Russia look at Norway with different eyes. I mean, well, the Russians never feared Norway, a small country of five million inhabitants with whom they've maintained peace for almost a thousand years.

When US nuclear capabilities are connected to Norwegian civilian infrastructure, and when Norwegian territory is used to build up US military presence, then Russian guns are slowly being to more of an extent being pointed towards Norway because what the Russians do fear is that Norwegian territory is being used for aggressive purposes by the US against Russia. And so that increases the risk of Norway being drawn into this big power rivalry between Russia and the US.

It also increases the risks for the Russians. So they're increasing their military spending. And unfortunately, this is also something that might stimulate increase defense spending in the US because to the extent that the US engages in Norway, probably in the case and increasing the risk of a conflict. Maybe the most probable scenario is a conflict arising from a misunderstanding when so much heavy military power is concentrated on such a small area. That's the way it can happen.

So in case of a misunderstanding in which the Russians fear a US attack, they go to, they take some kind of preliminary action to protect their military capabilities in the Kola Peninsula. Then the U S will feel much more obliged to interfere, to intervene in order to maintain their credibility as a security guarantor towards other NATO States. So it also increases the risk of the US being drawn into a conflict unnecessarily based on a misunderstanding. So, what we're going to see is three nations, everyone spending more on defense and getting less security in return from it.

Greg Wolpert: Michael, I was just wondering if you could add to that? I mean this was one of your points in your Nation article as well, that this could be the main area for World War III and why is that? I mean, what is it, why is Russia building up so much? After all, they've got access to the entire, more access to the Arctic than any other country in the world, so why is it such a hotspot?

Michael Klare: Well, this partly is a matter of geography and I hope that you can put a map of this area to highlight this fact. That is to say that although Russia has a number of ports, the port at Murmansk is the only one that offers Russian submarines open access to the Atlantic Ocean and to the other oceans of the world. They can't on the Atlantic side. They also have ports on the Pacific.

One needs a minute to understand something about nuclear strategy. Russia relies on its nuclear submarines, nuclear missile armed submarines, as its secure deterrent to a US first strike. If the US were to strike first and destroy all Russian missile silos, they count on their submarines submerged as a final deterrent to such a strike because they're supposedly more secure from detection and attack, but they have to get out into the water. Murmansk is therefore essential to them for that reason.

Hence, the United States, as it increasingly sees it, sees the possibility of a nuclear war with Russia sees that area where the submarines would exit from Murmansk to go out into the ocean as a crucial future nuclear war zone. Hence, the US has established with Norway a radar base at the very far North of Norway and Finnmark just 45 miles from the border with Russia and to track Russian submarines. This means in the event of a clash that had a nuclear potential, Northern Norway would be an immediate nuclear target for Russia. So you could see how this area is being caught up in the nuclear planning scenarios of both sides.

It's important to understand in this discussion that as we are shifting to this great power competition that we've been discussing, the US and I think the other great powers are also moving away from the strategy of mutual assured destruction, MAD as it was called, M-A-D, which said that any nuclear war would be so catastrophic that we are not even going to think about a first strike. We're only going to retain a secure second strike and not even think about nuclear war, but that's changing.

The US and Russia and China, it appears, are thinking more and more about the possibility of fighting and winning a nuclear war. I think this is utterly insane and immoral, highly immoral, but that is the case. And so nuclear battlefields are emerging places where nuclear strikes might occur. This area of Northern Norway and Murmansk would be at the very top of the list of possible targets in the event of a nuclear war. I could say more about this, but this is a matter of geography and you have to see Murmansk adjoining Northern Norway as a prime battlefield in any outset of a nuclear war.

Greg Wolpert: Well, I think it's also important to reflect on how these two kind of apocalyptic scenarios, that is of climate change and of nuclear war, are coming together in this particular issue. It's really quite

something. But we're going to leave it there for now. We'll certainly continue to follow this as we usually do.

I was speaking to Michael Klare, The Nation's defense correspondent and professor emeritus of Peace and World Security Studies at Hampshire College and Erik Vold, foreign policy advisor for the parliamentary group of the Red Party of Norway. Thanks again, Michael and Erik for having joined us today.

More: <https://therealnews.com/stories/nato-arctic-war-exercise-climate-change-resources-russia>

-- SOCIAL MEDIA --

Post #1

Time Approx: 0900

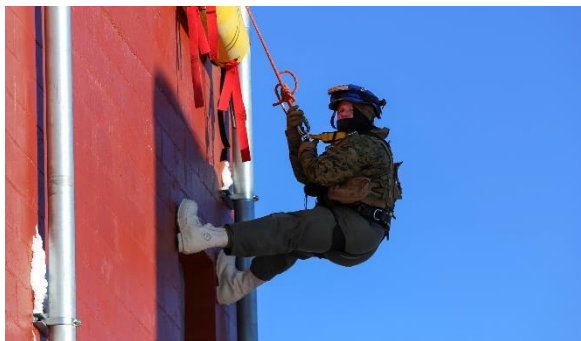
Platforms: Twitter, Instagram, Facebook

Copy: Faces in the Frost: U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler Thompson, with Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, based out of Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Md., rappels during an Arctic Eagle 2020 search and extraction training event Feb. 25.

Thompson, an independent duty corpsman, has been in the Navy for nine years and with CBIRF for six months. Seen this face before? Thompson was selected to be one of the faces of TRICARE Online check him out at www.tricareonline.com. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by 2LT Balinda O'Neal Dresel)

#ArcticEagle20 #facesinthefrost #arctictough #CBIRF #searchandrescue #Arcticready

Post #2



Time Approx: 1130

Platforms: Twitter, Instagram

Copy: When Soldiers are tasked with transporting all of the necessary equipment to survive overnight in an arctic environment, they use the Ahkio sled. The Ahkio is the only practical method for Soldiers to transport heavy equipment or injured personnel while on foot in an arctic environment. In a typical squad of Soldiers utilizing the Ahkio, three to five individuals will pull a single sled while the remaining others walk ahead in snow shoes to break a trail. The

Ahkio sled is an essential tool for arctic military operations, greatly extending the capabilities of the individual Soldier.

#ArcticEagle20 #AhkioSled #ArcticReady #ColdWeatherSurvival #AlaskaNationalGuard



Post #3

Time Approx: 1400

Platforms: Twitter, Instagram, Facebook

Copy: Alaska Air National Guard Lt. Col. Matthew Kirby, 212th Rescue Squadron commander, and members of the 212th RS, pararescuemen, combat rescue officers and Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape specialists,

jump out of a HC-130J Combat King II assigned to the 211th Rescue Squadron in response to a simulated alert rescue call at Deadhorse, Alaska, in support of Exercise Arctic Eagle 20, Feb. 25, 2020.

The Alaska National Guard is hosting Exercise Arctic Eagle 20, a joint-training exercise, Feb. 20 to March 6, 2020 throughout Alaska, including Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Eielson Air Force Base, Fort Wainwright, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and as far north as Teshekpuk Lake. As a homeland security and emergency response exercise, Arctic Eagle 20 is designed to increase the National Guard's ability and effectiveness to operate in the extreme cold-weather conditions found in Arctic environments. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Xavier Navarro)

#ArcticEagle20 #AlaskaNationalGuard #ArcticReady #PJ #CRO #SERE #arctictough #combatking



Post #4

Time Approx: 1630

Platforms: Twitter, Instagram

Copy: Arctic Eagle 20 provides training opportunities for National Guard forces, in concert with state and federal partners, to exercise and develop interagency interoperability. This partnership ensures an efficient

response to a catastrophic event to alleviate the impact to the citizens of Alaska and set conditions for recovery operations.

#ArcticEagle20#ArcticReady #HazmatTeam



-- TAGS AND HASHTAGS --

Alaska NORAD Region, Alaska Command and 11th Air Force/Feb. 27

Airman with the [176th Wing, Alaska Air National](#)

[Guard](#) deploy an Arctic Sustainment Package as part of exercise [#ArcticEagle20](#). The Arctic Sustainment Package is critical for search and rescue operations in the Arctic. Exercises such as [#ArcticEdge20](#) and the Navy's [#ICEX](#) rely on [Alaska National Guard](#) forces for Search and Rescue and Personnel Recovery capability. (U.S. Air Force photos by Senior Airman Xavier Navarro/Released)

The National Guard/Feb. 27

Photo of the Day: Alaska National Guard Airmen, of the 212th Rescue Squadron, jump out of a HC-130J Combat King II in response to a simulated alert rescue call during Exercise Arctic Eagle 2020.



**If you find Alaska National Guard news that was not included, please forward the link so it may be added to the next update.*

**This is a product for internal use. It is a snap shot of media coverage (favorable, unfavorable, true, false) and not a validation by the PA office.*